

The Henry Pool House  
Near Mt. Freedom  
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-671

HABS  
NJ  
14-MOUFR.V.  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.

14. MOUFR. V.

11-

The Henry Pool House  
Near Mt. Freedom  
Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Benjamin F. Vreeland, 25 Linden Avenue,  
Irvington, New Jersey

Occupant: Miss Ella Vreeland, Mt. Freedom Road  
(R.F.D. #2, Dover)

Date of Erection: About 1839-1840

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (Original Owner) Henry Pool (died 1891)

Present Condition: Original, the clapboard exterior requiring repair

Number of Stories: Two, over cellar

### Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame clapboarded  
(no paint)

Interior walls - lath and plaster on wood  
studding

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of gable end walls, on the ridge line

Roof - gable, with modern asphalt roofing  
over older wood shingles

### Historical Data:

The identification of this house by discovery of the name of its original owner has been found possible by search of the title in the land and probate records of the County, reported as follows:

John Pool(a) of Randolph Township, by his will dated 30 April 1836 and proved in 1837, devised to his son Silas Pool 20 square rods of land from his farm, lying across the turnpike from where the latter lived, and ordered the 20 acre "Miller Lot" on the east end of the farm to be sold for the benefit of devisees. To the Presbyterian Church of Mount Freedom he devised the interest of \$60 thereof for repairing the fences of the burying ground and for the use of the church. To Braynar D. Pool, Luther Pool and Ogden Pool, sons of his son John Pool Jr. deceased, he devised 30 acres off the east end of his farm. To his son Luther Pool he devised all his land lying on the southwest side of the Morris and Sussex Turnpike and northwest of the old road to Daniel Lawrence's, excepting "half of my dwelling house and garden adjoining". To the sons of his deceased son William Pool, he devised the residue of his real estate, being on the northeast side of the turnpike. The house here surveyed was built on this last mentioned part of the real estate, about three years later, in 1839.

From the evidence of this will it appears that the house of the testator John Pool stood on the southwest side of the turnpike, and so cannot be identified with the house (here considered) which stands on the northeast side thereof. From the Morristown church records cited in note (a) it appears that he and his wife held membership there until 1825, five

(a) John Pool, b. about 1747, d. 1837 in Randolph Twp., Morris Co., and was prob. bur. in Presb. Chyd. at Mt. Freedom, next to wife Jerusha (Cade) whose gravestone is inscribed d. 1 Nov. 1832 aged 83. He and his wife became communicants of Presb. Ch. of Morristown 1765 and were dismissed (to Mt. Freedom Ch.) 1825. Their children were: Ezra bapt. 14 Dec. 1768, d. 26 Nov. 1775; William B. 22 May 1771; Silas b. 6 July 1773; John b. 27 June 1775, d. 30 Mar. 1829; Elizabeth b. 30 Nov. 1778; Phebe b. 28 Jan. 1781; Luther b. 1 Feb. 1783, d. 16 Oct. 1856; Jerusha b. 3 Feb. 1785, mar. Dr. Lemuel Mead; Susannah b. 1 Mar. 1787; and Rebekah b. 8 June 1789; (History of the First Presbyterian Church of Morristown, Part II, 1885, p. 194).

years after the organization of the Presbyterian Church(b), at Mt. Freedom, some six miles westward. From this it may be assumed that he did not come to the latter village until 1825.

By a deed of 4 July 1839, Nathaniel D. Pool and wife Apiah of Springfield Township, Essex County, John L. Pool and William C. Pool both of Mendham Township, Morris County quitclaimed to (their brother) Henry Pool of Randolph Township in the latter county, two tracts of land "being a part of a tract of about one hundred and twenty acres which was bequeathed by John Pool of Randolph Township late deceased by his last will and testament to the sons of William Pool of Mendham, deceased,(c) and in the division of the same among the said sons of the said William Pool decd. was designated as no. 3 woodland and no. 3 arable land", describing the latter as beginning at the northeast corner of lot no. 4, allotted to John L. Pool, thence along the line of the same north 85 degrees 15 minutes west 13 chains and 70 links to the Morris and Sussex Turnpike Road, thence along the same to the road leading to Succasunna mine, thence along that road north 6 degrees 30 minutes west 1 chain, thence south 85 degrees 15 minutes east 16 chains and 30 links, thence north 5 degrees east 1 chain, thence south 85 degrees 15 minutes east 50 links

(b) The Presbyterian Ch. at Mt. Freedom, Randolph Twp., was organized 9 July 1820. (W.W. Munsell & Co. Hist. of Morris Co., N.J., 1882, p. 307)

(c) William Pool, b. 22 May and bapt. 4 Aug. 1771 in the Presbyterian Ch. of Morristown, son of John and Jerusha (Cade) Pool abovenamed, d. 13 Apr. 1836 in Mendham Twp., and was bur. in Mt. Freedom Presbyterian Chyd. His will dated 8 March 1836 named wife Abigail and sons John and Henry Pool, devising personal property only. His wife Abigail Pool, d. 9 Dec. 1837 aged 62 in Mendham Twp., dau. of Henry Doty. Her sister Sibellia, 1779-1843 was wife of Daniel Lawrence mentioned in the will of John Pool 1836 above cited. The will of Abigail Pool, 29 Mar. 1837, names sons Nathaniel D., John L., Henry and William Pool, and daughters Abigail, Ann Dickerson, Mary and Phebe, devising household goods, live stock and farming

thence south 5 degrees west 5 chains to place of beginning. On this 6.4 acre tract on the northeast side of the turnpike (County road no. 20) is located the house here surveyed. From its style and details, the house is recognized as of the period 1830-1850, and from the evidence of this deed, of 1839 conveying the lot to Henry Pool, in which no house is mentioned, it appears that he built it in the same year.

Henry Pool, who thus obtained the 6.4 acre lot on the northeast side of the turnpike, about a mile northwest of Mt. Freedom Church, in 1839 and built thereon the house here surveyed, described himself as "residing near Mt. Freedom",\* Randolph Township, in his will dated 23 August 1886 and proved 20 August 1891. Therein he devised the farm and "all crops gathered or ungathered on my farm where I now reside to be the property of my son William Newton and not a part of my estate, this in consideration that my said son has worked my said farm without wages, also considering that he has always remained at home and worked and been good to me, my wife and his mother", he to pay legacies to testator's daughters, Sibellia Ann wife of William Alpaugh and Phebe M. wife of George W. Bonnell. To his wife Charity S. he devised his 15 acre White Place lots on the road from Mt. Freedom to Mendham, the 8 acre Stephen Lowell lot in Mendham Township, with other provisions for her support.

William Newton Pool who thus inherited the farm from his father, Henry Pool, in 1891, conveyed the same to his sister, Phebe M. Bonnell, both being of Randolph Township, by deed of 7 September 1900, describing the farm as being an assemblage of 7 lots conveyed to Henry Pool severally.

By deed of 24 March 1902, the grantee Phebe M. Bonnell and her husband George Wesley Bonnell conveyed to Mary E. Hudson, all the parties being of

\* The map of Walnut Grove District No. 5, publ. in the Morris County Atlas of 1887, shows the house here surveyed as owned by H. Pool and the one next southeast as that of W. C. Pool.

Randolph Township, the same property, and she in turn conveyed the house and 7 of the lots to Richard E. Hunt of Newark by deed of 11 July next. From Hunt the same property passed to Joseph P. Sutton and wife of Randolph Township on 1 November 1905, and they conveyed it back to him by their deed of 21 May 1908. Hunt then sold it to Jacob H. Vreeland of Irvington by deed of 23 March 1910, who passed it to Benjamin F. Vreeland of Newark on 6 July 1912. The last name remains as owner at the time of our survey of the house in September 1940.

#### Architectural Analysis:

From the evidence of a formerly exposed frame gable end wall existing in the garret (see photograph), it is obvious that the roof of a one story wing has been raised to the main ridge line to form a house in one unit. Probably the comparatively elaborate front porch is a later addition.

#### Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Morris County by Thomas J. Riley, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 9 September 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:  
Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

TW 11/11/40